

decided on its own, and it, in essence, would not be anything that the Legislature decided either, but would simply be a by-product of LB 1224. That's the fear of counties out there. The provisions of this amendment are simple, they say that for the general assistance program and the medical assistance program at the county level that basically any person who becomes ineligible for state assistance, or one of the other assistance programs, because of the provisions of this bill or for any other reason would not be eligible for county assistance at that point either. That an individual receiving aid, who becomes ineligible, is not subsequently eligible for county general assistance or county medical assistance. The intent would be to hold those programs harmless, to have them continue serving the people that they do now without any unintended side effects of LB 1224. And I guess what I would like to accomplish in the debate we have is to have perhaps both Senator Wesely and Senator Rasmussen address this issue and explain, under the structure of LB 1224, exactly how the process would work and whether the counties are justified in having these fears. I would hope that we could accomplish that in this debate. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members. And I'm not rising to support Senator Will's amendment because I'm not sure what he's attempting to do. I'm not sure that the fear he has is founded, but I would ask him if he could respond. I'm looking at, Senator Will, on the first page of your amendment and maybe...and I was talking to Senator Rasmussen about some of the same concerns, and she was trying to listen to your discussion as well. Maybe we can expand on it a little bit and get some answers to the questions. The question I have is, on the first half of your amendment, page 1, you talk about any person who is or becomes ineligible for other medical programs or general assistance due to his or her own actions, or inactions, or due to the termination of a benefit period shall also be ineligible for medical services from the county. Does this...if we don't touch, under LB 1224, the Medicaid provisions, in other words, the state medical services, would there be any concern on the counties' part that there would be additional...an additional burden placed on the county medical services? So, in other words, if Medicaid is not a part of...is not impacted by the changes made in Senator Wesely's bill would there be a concern on the counties' part?